



January 12, 2011

## Can't Escape the **ELEVATOR!**

While in an elevator have you ever wondered,  
"What would I do if this thing gets stuck?"

Not to worry; we have some answers for you.

- **DON'T PANIC!** Take a deep breath and relax. Realize that you will get out, although it may take some time. If necessary, sit down to help you relax. Excitement and panic will only make matters worse.
- Check to see that the emergency stop switch was not triggered accidentally.
- Try pushing a floor or door open button. Some intelligent elevator controller systems deactivate the elevator car when not in use, which disables the floor buttons. In this special case, however, the door open button may still be functional.
- Look for an emergency telephone or intercom button to call for help. Inform personnel of your location and that you require immediate assistance.
- Use a cell phone when an elevator telephone is not available. Call 911 (867-7911 on KSC). Send a text message if you cannot get a signal. Text messages will sometimes transmit even with a weak signal.
- Engage the alarm button. Ring the alarm bell often or just hold down the button.
- If all else fails, make lots of noise. Bang on the doors with your shoes, hands or other object. Yell out that you are stuck in the elevator.



**Still concerned about being stuck? Here are some additional tips and information:**

- ❖ Always carry a small flashlight. The key-chain type or a pen-sized one that fits easily into your pocket or purse is ideal.
- ❖ Do not attempt to climb out to the shaft. The hatch at the top of the elevator car that actors in movies use to escape is locked or bolted shut from the outside.
- ❖ In a fire situation, **NEVER** attempt to escape the building via the elevator; not only can you be trapped in a failed elevator, but you also may wind up waiting for an elevator that already is manually or automatically shutdown.
- ❖ When the fire alarm trips, the elevators in many buildings will automatically descend nonstop to the first floor and await being placed in fire service. Alternatively, the elevator may simply stop at the next floor, open its doors, then shutdown. If you are in an elevator when this occurs, get out of the elevator as soon as possible and exit the building by the nearest exit stairway.
- ❖ Finally, it is highly unlikely that a malfunctioning elevator will ever free fall. Traction elevators have a mechanical governor that activates the car's brakes when it descends too fast, no matter what goes wrong with the controller or even if the cables break. Hydraulic elevators are virtually incapable of falling.

## **SAFETY DAYS**

The KSC Safety and Health Days program is coming in February. This year's theme is **Do the RIGHT Thing!**

It is important for employees to do the right thing when it comes to safety by:

- Always keeping safety in mind and not falling to complacency;
- Preventing and correcting unsafe behavior;
- Always working safely even when supervision is not around; and
- Not compromising the safety of yourself or others by taking shortcuts to get the job done faster.

As in past years, each NASA KSC directorate will complete a four to eight hour safety stand-down during the month.

Directorates are encouraged to partner with their contractor counterparts.

Training booths and classes will be offered across the center throughout the month.

Upcoming **Lookouts** will have additional information about program events.

If you have questions, comments, or a topic you would like to see addressed:  
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